



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon
National Parks

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Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Fire Notification

For Immediate Release – October 27, 2011
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Nature Trail Prescribed Fire Planned

Fire crews plan to begin ignitions on the Nature Trail Prescribed Fire in Kings Canyon National Park on October 29, 2011; weather and air-quality conditions permitting.

This unit is located on the floor of the Kings Canyon in Cedar Grove area, along the north side of the River Road and the Kings River, west the NPS pack station. The project is 216 acres in size and should be completed in two to three days.

Completing this project in the late fall is ideal for fire managers because visitation is low in Cedar Grove and most visitor services are suspended for the season. This timing significantly reduces the number of visitors and employees that may be affected by the localized smoke impacts.

Fire has long been a natural process in the Sierra Nevada. Fire suppression policies over the last century have resulted in abnormally high levels of forest fuels. Prescribed fire consumes these fuels under favorable conditions. This reduces the risk of an unwanted fire during hotter, drier conditions.

Portions of the unit were burned in 1993; the remainder was burned in 1994. The Cedar Grove area shows the most frequent fire cycle in the parks, with fire occurring approximately once every three to ten years. This level of frequent fire is likely influenced by Native American burning practices. In Cedar Grove, local tribes used fire to encourage the growth of black oak; a staple food source.

The River Road (or Motor Nature Trail) will be closed west of the NPS the pack station. The main road in Cedar Grove will remain open. The segment of the horse trail that leads through prescribed fire unit will also be closed during the project.

<http://www.nps.gov/seki/naturescience/current-fires.htm>